

REMARKS

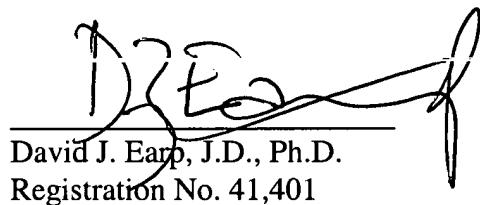
Claims 23 and 25-29 are pending in this application. The October 15, 2003, Office action rejected claims 23 and 27 under 35 USC § 112 as being indefinite because the claims lacked a requisite sequence identifier with respect to the RNA component of human telomerase (hTR). The Office action also pointed out problems with the sequence listing that was submitted with the response of June 9, 2003. These issues are believed to be resolved by the foregoing amendments. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The substitute sequence listing submitted herewith contains 16 sequences. SEQ ID NO:1 is the sequence of the PstI fragment set forth on pages 13 and 14 of the specification. SEQ ID Nos:2-15 are the various oligonucleotides disclosed in the specification (see, for example, pages 18 and 28). SEQ ID NO:16 is the sequence of the hTR sequence that is contained within the PstI fragment of SEQ ID NO:1. The sequence of hTR is identified on page 13 by starring of the sequence within SEQ ID NO:1 and a separate numbering (1-451) within the larger sequence for the hTR sequence. It is this separate numbering of hTR that is employed throughout the specification (for example, on page 2, line 34) when particular regions within hTR are discussed. A separate SEQ ID (SEQ ID NO:16) for hTR has been added to facilitate clear reference to the hTR sequence in the claims. While SEQ ID NO:16 is a new entry to the sequence listing, this sequence is fully described and identified in the specification and so SEQ ID NO:16 does not represent the addition of new matter.

The rejection of claims 23 and 27 was based on the recitation of numbered regions “of hTR.” Claims 23 and 27 have been amended to refer to SEQ ID NO:16, to assist the reader in matching the numbered regions recited in the claim to the hTR sequence. Applicants believe that this language cures the § 112, second paragraph, issue raised by the Examiner.

Applicants believe that this response should place the application in condition for allowance. However, if any further issues remain to be resolved an Notice of Allowance can be issued, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone applicant's representative undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



David J. Earp, J.D., Ph.D.
Registration No. 41,401

GERON CORPORATION
230 Constitution Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Telephone: (650) 473-7721
Fax: (650) 473-8654
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